

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**August 21, 2015**  
**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:221**

**Regular or Emergency: Emergency**

**Proposed Recommendation: Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits for 2015 – 2016**

**A. Season Dates:** No Changes for ducks except to accommodate calendar shift. Species include:

<b>Ducks</b>	November 26, 2015 – November 29, 2015 December 7, 2015 – January 31, 2016
<b>Canada geese</b>	November 26, 2015 – January 31, 2016 (except Northeast goose zone)  Northeast Goose Zone: December 19, 2015 – January 31, 2016
<b>Snow Geese White-fronted Geese Brant</b>	November 26, 2015 – January 31, 2016
<b>Conservation Order Snow geese</b>	Western Duck Zone: February 1 - 5, 2016 and February 8 – March 31, 2016  Eastern Duck Zone: February 1 – March 31, 2016

**B. Bag limits:** The Wildlife Division recommends Kentucky's daily bag limits for ducks, geese and brant be amended to correspond with limits allowed in the USFWS frameworks published in the August 2015 Federal Register.

**Effective date:** Fall 2015

**Action Requested of Commission:**

☒ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken by Commission:**

☐ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action:    Approved       Denied       Referred back to Committee**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**August 21, 2015**  
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**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:221**

**Regular or Emergency: Emergency**

**Proposed Recommendation:** Change Daily Closure time in the Northeast Goose Zone

The Wildlife Division recommends the Northeastern Goose Zone be changed from a 2:00 p.m. daily closure to a sunset closure.

**Justification:** With a small but growing population of Canada geese in the areas around Cave Run Lake, initial regulations which allowed the hunting of geese in this region were very conservative. One of the conservative regulations was the daily closure of hunting at 2pm. In the years since, that population has continued to grow. The Wildlife Division recommends that the Northeastern Goose Zone be changed from a 2:00pm daily closure to a sunset closure. This will make the closure time consistent with other goose zones in Kentucky. The 2:00pm closure was put in place to protect the new population of Canada geese years ago. The Wildlife Division expects no negative impact on the population based on the limited increase in harvest which would occur in late afternoon hunting. This would not impact closure times on specific WMAs.

**Effective Date:** Fall 2015

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**August 21, 2015**  
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**Regulation Number:** 301 KAR 2:222

**Regular or Emergency:** Emergency

**Proposed Recommendation:** Institute a 2 p.m. closure on Big Rivers WMA

The Wildlife Division recommends instituting a 2 p.m. closure on Big Rivers WMA to allow waterfowl opportunity to disperse and use all wetland areas for feeding and roosting in the evenings.

**Justification:** Big Rivers WMA is a relatively new WMA. In the initial years of waterfowl hunting at Big Rivers, the area has been used by a number of duck hunters. Hunting pressure during afternoon hours has resulted in the ducks not being able to utilize the wetland habitat on the WMA. Closing the WMA at 2 PM daily would allow waterfowl opportunity to disperse and use all wetland areas for feeding and roosting in the evenings. This should enhance overall waterfowl holding potential of the area and improve hunt quality because of increased likelihood of seeing and potentially harvesting ducks. The potential to see and harvest ducks were important components that would enhance hunting satisfaction identified in a recent waterfowl hunting survey.

**Effective date:** Fall 2015

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b> _____

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**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:222**

**Regular or Emergency: Emergency**

**Proposed Recommendation:** Allow the creation of seasonally drawn blinds in the  
Town Creek Moist Soil Unit of Doug Travis WMA

The Wildlife Division recommends increasing opportunity for duck hunters by adding three permanent blind sites that will be allocated annually during preseason drawing as per existing practice at Doug Travis Wildlife Management Area.

**Justification:** The blind sites will be added in the Town Creek Moist Soil Unit, which is currently closed to all access Nov. 1 – March 15. The Town Creek impoundment is one of the lowest points on the Doug Travis Wildlife Management Area, and thus is much easier to provide water throughout duck season. We have the ability to supply water to this impoundment with a well; although in most years the Mississippi River reaches high enough levels in the fall to flood this impoundment without supplemental pumping. Three blind sites can be widely separated within this impoundment (300 yards minimum), which should allow for a higher-quality waterfowl hunting experience for duck hunters. Due to the dispersal of hunting pressure and the ability to access these sites either by boat or on foot, it is expected that hunter success at these sites will be above-average for public hunting in western Kentucky. In addition to providing opportunity in these sites, we expect pressure created by these blinds to provide additional opportunities in current blinds by keeping birds moving. There will remain more than adequate "refuge" for the WMA.

**Effective date:** 2015/2016 Season

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
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Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**August 21, 2015**  
**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number:** 301 KAR 2:224

**Regular or Emergency:** Emergency

**Proposed Recommendation:** Implement a Zone-Split system for ducks and doves.

The Wildlife Division recommends keeping the current zone system as it currently stands.

**Justification:** The option to change duck hunting zones or change the number of segments/splits is only available to states every five years. Any decision made today would be in place from the 2016-2017 season until the 2020-2021 season.

The options for zones/splits are:

- (1) No more than four zones with no splits,
- (2) Split seasons (no more than 3 segments) with no zones, or
- (3) No more than three zones with the option for 2-way (2-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones

Currently Kentucky utilizes option (3) for ducks and has two zones with a two segment season in most years. Kentucky maintains two zones so that we may have two youth hunting weekends (at end of season in West and beginning in East). The Service allows two youth days (must be weekend) for each zone in a state. One requested option for change would be to add a segment (in October). Adding a segment in October would require Kentucky to change to option (2), and the entire state would need to be one zone. This would mean a loss of separate dates for youth waterfowl hunts.

The most recent survey indicates that most Kentucky waterfowl hunters do not favor changing our season structure. Therefore, the Wildlife Division recommends maintaining the current season structure for the 2016-17 season through the 2020-21 season time period.

**Effective date:** 2016-2017 Season

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**Action:**    **Approved**       **Denied**       **Referred back to Committee**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**August 21, 2015**  
**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:083**

**Regular or Emergency: Regular**

**Proposed Recommendation:** Implement changes to Holding and Intrastate  
Transportation of Captive Cervids

The Wildlife Division recommends the following changes to the holding and intrastate transportation of Captive Cervids:

**1. Abolish the Non-commercial Captive Cervid Permit.**

**Justification:** Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) recognizes this permit as a pet permit and currently these facilities are not regulated for disease monitoring. Removing this permit and only offering one type of permit requires all KDFWR permitted captive facilities to be monitored by both agencies.

**2. Grandfather the existing Non-commercial Captive Cervid Permit holder.**

**Justification:** There are approximately 23 facilities that are permitted under KDFWR as a Non-commercial facility. These facilities will be grandfathered to stay as that type of permit until their herd expires.

**3. Prohibit breeding in grandfathered facilities by not comingling the males and females and not importing any other animals.**

**Justification:** To stay as a grandfathered facility the herd owner will not allow their animals to breed and the sexes can't be comingled. This allows the permit holder to keep the animals they have, yet provide an end to the permit. If a herd owner does not want to agree with these requirements they must change their permit type to a Commercial Captive Cervid Permit.

**4. Create language that suspends a facility if the facility is designated as suspended under Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).**

**Justification:** Currently, KDA is able to suspend a facility under their program when a KDFWR facility is designated as suspended. This language would allow the suspension designation to happen on both ends. Ultimately this allows for better enforcement and protection to both the captive industry and the wild herd.

**Effective date: 2016 License Year**

**Action Requested of Commission:**

☒ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken by Commission:**

☐ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**August 21, 2015**  
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**Regulation Number:** 301 KAR 3:015

**Regular or Emergency:** Regular

**Proposed Recommendation:** Update to 301 KAR 3:015 Shooting Ranges on Wildlife Management Areas

The Wildlife Division recommends updating the shooting range regulation to reflect safety measures.

- Update to the definitions section to reflect changes and recommendations.
- Add caliber restrictions allowable on shooting department operated shooting ranges.
- Eliminate pistol use on department tube ranges.
- Prohibit smoking at tube ranges.
- Add a 1 day a week closure on tube ranges to allow for maintenance and event scheduling.
- Remove self serve trap range at Miller Welch-Central KY WMA from the regulation as the trap range is no longer present. It is now an archery range.

**Justification:** Currently the shooting range regulation does not have a limit on calibers which can be used nor does it reflect the recommended changes recommended by the NRA and NSSF analysis of our shooting ranges. The Division would like to update the regulation to encompass all of these changes as well as the caliber restrictions to insure safety at department owned and operated shooting ranges.

**Effective date:** Early 2016

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**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:122**

**Regular or Emergency:** Regular

**Proposed Recommendation:** Update to 301 KAR 2:122 Seasons, methods, and limits for small game

The Wildlife Division recommends updating the methods for small game hunting to clarify the allowance of any rimfire handgun and also allow the use of .410 handguns for small game hunting per 301 KAR 2:122.

**Justification:** The League of KY Sportsman brought forth a resolution last year to allow the use of any rimfire handgun for small game hunting. The current regulation allows any "rimfire gun" but also states .22 caliber handgun. Removal of the latter will clarify that any rimfire firearm is permitted for small game hunting. We have also had numerous requests to allow the use of .410 handguns for small game hunting. Discussions with program staff and the Law Enforcement Division have been favorable toward this change to allow the use of any handgun with shotshell ammunition for small game hunting.

**Effective date:** 2016 License Year

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